ARMED FORCES MEDICAL LIBRARY

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ISSUED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

THE QUESTION OF CURRENT LIST PUBLICATION

In the November 1953 AFML NEWS, under the item summarizing the first meeting of the AFML Advisory Group, an indication was given that difficulties have arisen concerning the continuance of publication of the CURRENT LIST. These difficulties are entirely of a budgetary character.

After two months of tremendous effort, the Library has finally received "interim" clearance for continuing publication until October 1954; to continue beyond this date certain issues hinging on pricing of the publication will have first to be resolved. The "interim" clearance carries with it serious limitations as to the total number of pages which may be printed during a fiscal year; and, to complicate the situation, a dollar limitation has been added which has the effect of further restricting the number of pages which can be printed.

Faced with the necessity of making an immediate decision regarding the where and how of retrenchment, we have withheld shipment to the printer of the December 1953 cumulative issue, and have dispatched in its stead the January 1954 issue, which has been packed and ready for the past several weeks. The February 1954 issue is at this time past the midpoint of our assembly operation, and work on subject heading material for the March issue is already well under way.

Under these circumstances the possibility of future publication of the present semiannual cumulative issues is in grave doubt. These problems will be of deep concern to the AFML Advisory Group, meeting again on 29 January 1954, to all CURRENT LIST subscribers and users, and indeed to all who are interested in scientific communication.

Printing cost borne by the FRIENDS of the Armed Forces Medical Library.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT

Since reporting for duty at AFML eight months ago (see AFML NEWS, May 1953), Lieutenant Commander John A. Oley has been busily engaged in developing preliminary plans for a new building for the Library.

First of all, LCDR Oley underwent a period of orientation in the programs and operations of the Library, during which he paid extensive visits to all divisions and observed their work. This preliminary period was supplemented with wide reading in library literature, and with two weeks' residence at Emory University during the latter part of August for general training in medical librarianship as a student in the course conducted by Miss Mildred M. Jordan. In September LCDR Oley visited the University of Iowa Library at Iowa City and the Midwest Inter-Library Center at Chicago, gathering ideas on architecture, planning, and equipment. In October, in company with the Director and the Chief Librarian, he visited the Firestone Library of Princeton University. In November LCDR Oley traveled to Cambridge to see the Hayden Library of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Lamont Library of Harvard University; and to New York City to see the Brooklyn Public Library, the New York Academy of Medicine Library, the Medical Library of the Center for Cancer and Allied Diseases, the Egbert Lefevre Memorial Library of the New York University-Bellevue Medical Center, and the Library of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University.

Concurrently, LCDR Oley has produced flow charts of activities in the various areas of the Library, and has tabulated a large amount of background data. He has developed estimates of space requirements, and these have been discussed with the Assistant Librarians and the Office of The Director. He is now working with personnel of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, U. S. Navy, in drawing up preliminary advanced schematic plans for the project.

WHAT'S NEW SPECIAL ISSUE

For December 1953 Abbott Laboratories of North Chicago has published a special Christmas issue of WHAT'S NEW, featuring an article about the History of Medicine Division of the Armed Forces Medical Library, and reproducing in full color various unusual and interesting plates, illustrations, and bindings from AFML's outstanding collection of medical historical rarities.

EXHIBIT

The exhibit for the month of January displays some recent accessions to the Art Section. The medical prints are nearly all lithographs in color. There are English and French caricatures by James Gillray, Charles Philipon, and George Cruikshank, to mention several of the best known artists, whose subjects include "Hallucinations," "Bumpology," "Rhume de cerveau," and "Tableau de Paris - La Médecine dans les Hopitaux." One 17th century mezzotint, after the Dutch artist, Gerard Dou, entitled "Mal d'Amour" is a copy of the original in Buckingham Palace. An old German woodcut by Hans Burgkmair is the earliest medical scene.

There is a tiny Holbein illustration for "L'Éloge de la folie," by Erasmus, and a lithograph of "Un Pédicure" from the Salon Caricature de 1845. Several other fine engravings complete the group of 15 original medical prints.

MOVING DAY AHEAD

In August 1954 the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology will remove to its new building at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, thus leaving the Armed Forces Medical Library in sole possession of the Library-Museum Building which has been jointly occupied by these two institutions for many years. Plans for occupancy of the entire building by the Library were completed in November 1953 and submitted to the Office of The Surgeon General. Among other changes and adjustments of space, these plans call for relocation of the administrative offices, the Art Section (now in the temporary building known as Tampa Hall), and the Binding Section on the first floor, and the moving of the Current List Division (now in the temporary building known as Escanaba Hall) to the third floor. Also planned is the installation of stacks on the basement and first floors of the West Wing, forming a continuation of the present stack area on the second floor. Into this new stack area will be moved the closed title serial publications and monographs published between 1850-1920 (now housed in Escanaba Hall) and the 1800-1850 segment of the collection now stored in Cleveland, Ohio. It is not contemplated that the older collections, including the incunabula, and the staff of the History of Medicine Division (now housed in the Allen Memorial Medical Library, Cleveland, Ohio) will be returned to Washington at this time.

FORECAST ON PUBLICATIONS

The CURRENT LIST situation is disquieting (see above); however, the Library is planning to continue with its long range publication program, and 1954 should see completion of the following:

By the staff of the Current List Division: Subject Heading Authority List of the Current List of Medical Literature. (May)

By the staff of the Catalog Division: The Armed Forces Medical Library Catalog, 1953. (June)

By the staff of the Reference Division: An extensive bibliography on The Structure, Composition and Growth of Bone. (August)

By the staff of the Index-Catalogue Division: Volume XI, Series 4, Index-Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office. (Autumn)

BIOLOGICAL BOOK HAZARDS

Some recent shipments of books purchased by Dr. Wilson in Europe last spring have contained a small amount of unexpected and unwanted biological activity. This has quieted down following applications of DDT.

COMING EVENTS

8 January: Meeting of the Program Committee, 1954 Medical Library Association Convention Committee (Baltimore).

29 January: Meeting of the Armed Forces Medical Library Advisory Group (Washington).

31 January: Meeting of the Association of Research Libraries (Madison).

16 February: Meeting of the 1954 Medical Library Association Convention Committee (Bethesda).

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